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MWRD Statement Regarding the Proposed Chicago Police Department Firing Range

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners and staff are committed to the service of all Cook County residents and the protection of our water environment. Because of this commitment, MWRD Commissioners have dedicated thousands of acres of MWRD land to natural greenspace and public access areas. Our region and constituents benefit tremendously from this commitment. At the MWRD, we certainly understand strong commitment to our environment.

In consideration of leasing property to the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the MWRD has held public meetings and responded to concerns raised through diligent investigation of each concern. As a community member, the MWRD must consider the human environment and our own post-911 responsibility to protect Chicagoland's water resources. All members of our community have a right to safety and security. A trained police force is an important component of delivering a safe and secure human environment.

Environmental impact was found to be minimal in the studies performed to look at public concerns. The CPD will be required to clean up the contaminated and unusable site, which will provide an immediate environmental improvement.

After fully vetting public concern and considering the Chicago Police Department's need for adequate out-door training facilities and training opportunities for our own police force, the MWRD believes this lease agreement to be a responsible use of MWRD property. The MWRD remains committed to its role as a strong environmental leader in the region.